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FOTH helps Aruba's special athletes to Go, Go for the Gold in Greece!



FOTH President Art Stark hands over donation to Arturo Werleman

Friends of the Handicapped, (FOTH,) is a group of community minded island visitors who spend their winters on Aruba. Over twenty years ago, they started a foundation to channel funds from fundraising events they or-

ganize and conduct during their vacations to various organizations on Aruba working with the physically and mentally challenged.

This year, they had already made their annual distribution when they learned

of the needs of Aruba's special athletes to raise an exceptional amount necessary for their delegation to participate in the International Special Olympics Summer Games taking place in Athens, Greece in June.

The remaining FOTH members who had not yet returned home from their annual sojourn in Aruba conferred and decided between them they should make a special last donation for this worthy cause before departing the island.

Arturo Werleman, president of the Aruba Special Olympics Committee was joined by Enrita Arias and committee treasurer Dennis Conrado plus a contingent of special athletes to accept the generous donation from FOTH President Art Stark, accompanied by board members Sal and Maryann La Carruba along with Pat and

Marsha Finck.

"We are more than happy to make this additional special effort," commented Art Stark, "we think it embodies everything FOTH stands for, and we know it is important to Aruba's special athletes."

FOTH members were delighted to meet four of Aruba's medal winning competitors from previous world games, Eldrin Kock, Vanessa Bernabela, Indra Giel and Jeffrey Croes, who hope to represent their island nation again as they Go, Go for the Gold in Greece!

by Rosalie Klein

International exposition Destination Innovation registration closes this week



Lauren Dix of KvK with Azriah Palm and Carols Martinus of EPI Science and Tech Unit

Lauren Dix of Aruba's Chamber of Commerce, (KvK) reported during a Tuesday press conference that registration for Aruba's exposition dedicated to developing technology necessary for doing business today, "Destination Innovation" is approaching the closing date for registration to participate. Official closing date to register is tomorrow, March 25; registration forms can be downloaded at their website: <http://www.aruba.chamber.com>. This international expo will take place in the Renaissance Convention Center on Friday and Saturday, May 27 and 28.

Continued on page 3

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Libyan troops targeted after air force 'destroyed'

NEAR AJDABIYA, Libya (AFP) — Libyan ground troops are being targeted by air strikes, coalition officials said yesterday, as a top British officer declared Moamer Kadhafi's air force effectively destroyed.

As bitter fighting raged in key rebel strongholds, six NATO warships backed up by aircraft began patrolling international waters off Libya's coast to enforce a UN arms embargo against Kadhafi's regime, the alliance said.

Air Vice Marshal Greg Bagwell of Britain said that Libya's air force has been almost totally destroyed by the air strikes and "no longer exists as a fighting force."

Bagwell told British media at an airbase in southern Italy, from which RAF warplanes are operating, that Libyan ground forces were

also being attacked when they threaten civilians.

The US military also said Kadhafi's ground troops who are threatening rebel-held cities are now being targeted by coalition air strikes.

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said in Cairo that there was no "timeline" for when UN-backed military operations in Libya would end.

"The no-fly zone is not time limited by the Security Council resolution. So I think that there is no current timeline in terms of when it might end," Gates told reporters

Cuba releases last two of its 75 dissidents

HAVANA, Cuba (AFP) — Cuba has freed the last two of a group of 75 opposition activists detained by the government in 2003, representatives for the communist island's dissident movement said yesterday.

Dissidents told AFP that the government released Felix Navarro, 57, a teacher and political activist, and Jose Ferrer, a 40-year-old fisherman, an opposition movement member.

They were the last remaining imprisoned dissidents from a group of several dozen detained by the Havana government eight years ago.

The government freed from prison the last two of the 75 prisoners of conscience, "Elizardo Sanchez, one of the most prominent figures in the dissident community on the communist island.

Navarro's daughter told AFP that her father had already made his way home.

"He arrived this morning," Sayli Navarro told AFP.

"My dad is in great spirits, very upbeat, very happy -- and prepared to pick up where he

ORANJESTAD -- Minister of Economic Affairs, Michelle Winklaar-Hooyboer recently met with the National Commission for Innovation and Competitiveness (NCIC) and was presented with a plan for investigation and development on national innovation in Aruba.

At the beginning of 2011, the minister installed a national commission comprised of the public, private and scientific sectors with the objective of investigating and developing the potential for economic innovation for



Aruba. The members of this national commission are: Ryan Peterson, Joyce Bartels-Daal, Zulema Dabian and Edward Erasmus.

During the meeting with Winklaar-Hooyboer there was ample discussion regarding national innovation and how to stimulate and develop Aruba's economy and her competitiveness. Under the guidance of Professor Ryan Peterson, the commission prepared a strategic plan in which a distinctive plan of action was delineated, to include investigation, investment, education and a plan to stimulate innovation in the private and public sectors. In the months of March, April, May and June they will be conducting specific investigative and educational activities together with public and private sectors.

This week there will be a special seminar at the University of Aruba dealing with the importance of human capital and the roll of women in our global economy. In the month of April, there will be another seminar regarding international diplomacy and how to cultivate a corporate image for Aruba in international markets.

A national symposium with various international speakers will be organized in

May on the topic of innovation and national competitiveness.

Along with the ongoing investigation they will begin researching in the private sector the factors and conditions that stimulate or hinder innovation and competitiveness. In this fashion the commission (NCIC) is contributing to our knowledge with respect to innovation.

The minister expressed praise for the commission and ensured the group of her complete support for the realization of their plan and action steps of the commission. She is convinced that the planned programs and activities will help fortify Aruba's economy in a sustainable fashion.



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International exposition Destination Innovation registration closes this week

Continued from page 1

Aziah Palm and Carlos Martinus of the EPI School of Science and Technology were present to reveal some plans for the upcoming event, which will include several innovation projects executed by students as part of a Science Fair. The teachers report they are extremely encouraged by the students' enthusiasm for the challenge and the overwhelming support they have received from several business interests in sponsoring their various projects. "This is an opportunity for Aruba to demonstrate the ingenuity, intelligence and capabilities of its youth during at an international platform," stated Mr. Martina.

Presently, 50% of the available booths have been commissioned by companies from Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Holland and the United States; visitors can expect to see the latest innovations in technology that will advance their business. Participating vendors will be giving 15 minute public presentations regarding their specialties and have representatives available to elaborate on their products and services. "The KvK sees innovation not only as an economic necessity for growth, but also as the essence of en-

trepreneurship. Real entrepreneurship is synonymous to continuous change for the best," stated Ms. Dix.

Confirmed participants include Exper, NV, a temporary manpower service, Eledtron, an energy-saving concern, Proffid, offering advanced technology for the resort industry, K & R Holdings, producers of Safe-glo materials for safety during power failures, Arubook, a complete online and Android guide to local services and vendors, A.C.C., offering money-saving solutions for climate control, Pro-Tec, designers and builders of automated energy and environmental systems, and ASAruba payroll systems. The KvK will also have a booth to assist all who are interested in starting a business on Aruba in understanding the necessary steps to do so. Aruba Freezone, which offers a safe haven for companies wishing to do business amidst unstable socio-economic and political factors throughout Latin America and a profitable way to transfer goods around the region as well as to and from the EU and elsewhere, will also be present.

The philosophy behind the upcoming Destination Innovation Expo will be expounded upon during a workshop on Tuesday, March 29 in the auditorium of the KvK building on Irausquin Boulevard titled "Entrepreneurship and Innovation," with facilitator Edward Erasmus. The workshop aims to provide some clear answers to what is innovation in this day and age and revolves around the idea as a basic instrument of entrepreneurship, no matter the size of your business. It will use a highly interactive approach and aims to provide practical tools to aid small and medium-sized businesses in particular to understand, develop and implement innovation strategies to succeed in a highly competitive environment.

For more information and registration for the various KvK activities as well as the upcoming expo and workshop, visit their website or contact their Department of Business Information & Support at 582-1566 extensions 27, 35, or 42.

by Rosalie Klein

Drivers License Bureau being revamped

ORANJESTAD -- Last month, February, Aruba's Police Chief decided, after evaluating the deplorable condition of the Drivers License Bureau, to take urgent steps to renovate this Office and to correct the situation as quickly as possible. The process took place in consultation with the Minister of Justice Arthur Dowers.

The first step in the renovation process was to create more work space in the Offices to facilitate more areas for submitting the forms, and more computers for the processing of documents. Instead of one reception window, there are now four such windows offering service to the public for the renewal or change of drivers' licenses.

They also created a waiting room and decided to introduce office hours from 8:00am through to 3:00pm.

The next phase, which has already begun, is to create parking space so as to avoid clients from parking on the sidewalks and other pavements. There is a spacious parking area next to the building, and all the abandoned old cars on the lot will be removed. The area will be cleaned completely and made ready.

With respect to the office procedure: petitions for drivers licenses will be controlled via the CENSO (Census Office) system. Once confirmed by the Census Office, the person's information will be printed on a rose colored form, a photo will be affixed, the person signs the form and the form is then scanned.

Special scanning equipment has been brought in from Holland which will scan the drivers license petitions which in turn are sent digi-

tally to the Netherlands where the drivers licenses are produced. Once the information has been sent to Holland, it is expected that within two weeks the new drivers licenses will arrive on Aruba to be verified and eventually distributed. The Office is now in the process of evaluating the entire administrative system to ascertain exactly what every employee does so as to come up with a specific job description and a new structure for the Office and to eliminate any unnecessary forms.

This entire process will take some time to complete. In the interim there will be a numbers system in the waiting room with an electronic announcer. There will also be a coffee of pot for waiting clients to enjoy while they wait their turn for assistance at one of the four windows.

One set back at this mo-

ment is that the special registration form has run out. An early request for a refill was sent to Holland, but instead of receiving the 5,000 they ordered, the Dutch company shipped only 3,000 copies to Aruba. A new order was sent for an additional 15,000 but there has been a delay in receiving these here. They are in constant contact with the Dutch supplier. This special form is very important in the administration process for it is on this form that the special code and the driver's data are affixed prior to being scanned.

The Police Force is doing its utmost to provide the best possible professional service to the general public at this Office. Hence, the organization can depend on the support of the Minister of Justice and his staff to ensure that the process of renovation is completed the soonest possible.




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Steady showers did not dampen spirits for Paseo Herencia's "Dia di Himno y Bandera" celebration



The celebration of Aruba's National Day - Anthem and Flag Day – was a complete success, despite the heavy downpour that closed the day. Island residents and visitors alike proclaimed it a moving experience. It began with the solemn act of raising on the tower the largest Aruban flag ever, to fly high above Palm Beach.

Afterwards, festivities commenced with a spirited, if wet, performance by musical group Tipico Cadushi Largo, elevating the mood.

Paseo Herencia would like to extend a special 'thank you' to Minister of Public Health, Sports and Drugs, Dr. Richard Visser who honored them by raising the Aruban flag and to the Land Sea

Scouts who assisted him with an exemplary demonstration of scout preparation and discipline.

Paseo Herencia will now raise this special Aruban flag on official holidays during special programs reflecting our island traditions and culture conducted in the Plaza Padu.



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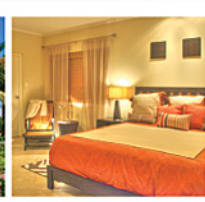
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Opening jubilee exhibition of "Waldy Simson 20 anja den art"



This Saturday, at 7:00 p.m. the opening of the jubilee exhibition of "Waldy Simson 20 anja den arte" will take place at the Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad.

The ceremony will start

with MC Lenny Denz, welcoming everyone to the exhibition. Youth choir Briyante, under guidance of Tica Giel, will sing the National Anthem of Aruba followed by a song composed by Mr. Sim-

son. Poetess Belen Kock, with her unique voice, will recite the poems 'Aruba,' 'The Artist' and 'Hope', written by Mr. Simson.

After words of gratitude by Mr. Simson, the exhibition

will open with the unveiling of the artwork 'Love'. Love is, size wise (156 x 104 cm), the largest tiffany work of art that Mr. Simson has made until now. The unveiling will be done by a group of friends who has contributed in a unique and positive way resulting that Mr. Simson can still participate actively in life.

Also on exhibition will be, among others paintings,

tiffany, works based on a paper cuttings, ceramic, engravings, books and the DVD Hope.

Students can participate in a contest with the chance to win works of art made by Mr. Simson. The contest is about the exhibition and information posted on the Face book page of Mr. Simson.

Everyone is welcome to the opening of the exhibition.

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Estonia sees rock as future of global energy



NARVA, Estonia (AFP) – A huge excavator bites into the earth of an open-cast mine, as the operator skillfully mans the controls in a cabin four storeys from ground level.

For the small Baltic state of Estonia, rock is the future of energy.

The European Union nation of 1.3 million generates 97 percent of its electricity thanks to oil shale -- sediment formed 400-450 million years ago, containing hydrocarbons. Its industry forecasts that shale's use can only expand.

"Estonia has 1.1 percent of global oil shale reserves, but what makes us unique is that we have used it and developed the technology for a hundred years," Sandor Liive, chief executive of state-run power firm Enefit, told AFP.

Enefit is betting on shale beyond the nation's borders, from the Middle East to the United States.

After already having signed a development deal with Jordan, this month Enefit announced the acquisition of a 100 percent stake in the US-based Oil Shale Exploration Company for an undisclosed

sum.

Enefit said the firm had the largest tracts of privately-owned oil shale reserves in the United States, with over 3.1 billion tons of oil shale containing almost 2.1 billion barrels of oil.

The United States is home to 72 percent of global oil shale reserves. Besides Jordan, it is also found in Australia, Brazil, China and Morocco.

Asked why Enefit thinks shale makes economic sense, Liive said it hinges on the high prices for conventional oil.

"If you believe that oil will be more than \$60 a barrel, then the answer's yes. Yes, it's profitable to produce oil from oil shale," he said.

Estonia has long used shale without actually extracting oil, however.

The Estonian word for it is "polevkivi" -- "burning rock." It is mined and then burned in the country's power stations.

Shale is the main mineral resource in the former Soviet-ruled republic, which won independence from Moscow in 1991 after five decades of communist rule and joined the EU in 2004.

Nuclear to stay, says EU amid safety testing battle

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) – Nuclear energy is here to stay so European Union leaders need to spell out clearly how to revamp safety guidelines at a key summit, the bloc's energy commissioner said yesterday.

"We are looking for clear instructions from EU leaders meeting today and tomorrow,"

Guenther Oettinger told a hearing of European Parliament lawmakers, after diplomats revealed deep divisions on reactor stress tests.

The German commissioner said the radiation threat from the Fukushima No.1 reactor in Japan, severely damaged after an earthquake and tsunami,

Kenya biofuel project opposed



Jatropha seeds

NAIROBI, Kena (AFP) – Environmental groups yesterday protested an expansive project to grow jatropha in Kenya for biofuels, arguing that such production would emit more carbon than fossil fuels.

The Kenyan franchise of Italy's Nuove Iniziative Industriali is planning to farm 50,000 hectares of jatropha near Malindi, a seaside tourist resort in southern Kenya.

"Taking into account the emissions produced throughout the production and consumption process... jatropha would emit between 2.5 and six times more greenhouse gases," said ActionAid, Nature Kenya and the British Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The groups said the project is driven by commercial interests in Europe where the European Union has set a target to produce 10 percent of transport energy from biofuels by 2020.

"It is scandalous that EU nations are passing biofuels off as a green solution to climate change. Like most other biofuels, jatropha could actually end up increasing carbon emissions," they argued.

Jatropha is a shrub originally from South America. It is drought resistant and produces oil-containing seeds.

The United Nations Environment Program said in 2009 that jatropha can mitigate greenhouse gas emissions if grown on degraded land, but can also be carbon intensive if its farming entails land use changes.

was "still dangerous" with problems "far from being mastered."

Nevertheless, some "30 percent of electricity in Europe is furnished by nuclear power plants and nuclear will remain a supply source in the short, medium and long term," he underlined.

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Mozilla unleashes sleek new Firefox Web browser



The logo of the open-source web browser Firefox

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AFP) – A fast, sleek new version of Firefox was released yesterday to vie Microsoft's Internet Explorer 9 (IE9) and Google Chrome in the fiercely competitive market for Web browsing software.

Nonprofit group Mozilla made Firefox 4 available as a free download to computers powered by Windows, Mac OS X or Linux operating systems in more than 80 languages.

US to overtake China with fastest supercomputer

American geeks may soon celebrate taking back the crown for "fastest supercomputer in the world." A U.S. national lab plans to unveil a "Titan" supercomputer in 2012 that would dwarf the computing speeds of the latest record holder from China, as well as all previous competitors.

The new computing behemoth is designed to crunch 20,000 trillion calculations

Firefox 4 was billed as six times faster than its predecessor and boasted features including a "Do Not Track" signal to opt-out of having online activities recorded by websites for targeted online ads or services.

The open-source Web browsing software was also designed as a stage for rich video or game graphics based on the HTML5 standard being touted as a boon for online visual experiences.

(20 petaflops) per second. That handily beats China's Tianhe-1A supercomputer, which can do 2,500 trillion calculations (2.5 petaflops) per second.

Such calculations look staggering on a human scale. It would take 120 billion people with 120 billion calculators 50 years to do what the Titan supercomputer might do in a day.

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Health & Living

Keep Kids in Rear-Facing Car Seats Until 2, Experts Say

-- Children are best kept in rear-facing car seats until age two or until they have reached the height and weight maximums set by the car seat manufacturer, according to new recommendations from a pediatricians' group.

This is a significant change from the prior recommendations, which called for babies to stay in rear-facing seats until they were at least one year old and 20 pounds. Rear-facing seats offer more support to the head, neck and spine of infants and toddlers in a crash, said report author Dr. Dennis Durbin, a pediatric emergency physician at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The new guidelines, developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, appear in the April 2011 issue of Pediatrics.

Though the recommendations were meant to encourage parents to keep kids in the seats longer, many parents interpreted that wording to mean they should put their children in a forward-facing seat at their first birthday -- way too soon, said Dr. Benjamin Hoffman, an

associate professor of pediatrics at the University of New Mexico and a certified car passenger safety technician and instructor who was not involved in the report.

"There's been this perception that it's a good idea to move from rear-facing to forward-facing," Hoffman said. "But if parents want to afford their child the best possible protection from the leading cause of death for children, they want delay that step as long as they can."

Most rear-facing child safety seats today can accommodate children to fit the new guidelines, the report noted.

The rate of deaths due to motor vehicle crashes in children under age 16 fell 45 percent between 1997 and 2009, according to background information in the article.

Yet motor vehicle accidents are still the leading cause of death for children ages 4 and older. For every death, some 18 children are hospitalized and 400 are hurt seriously enough to require medical attention, according to the article.



Even age two shouldn't be read as a deadline, Durbin said. If your child is small for his or her age, you may want to delay turning around the seat even longer, while bigger, taller kids may need to be turned sooner than age two.

The recommendations also say that a forward-facing car seat with a harness offers more protection than a booster seat, while a booster seat is better than a seat belt alone.

Kids should be kept in a forward-facing car seat as long as possible, even through age

8 if their weight or height is under the limit allowed by their child safety seats, according to the new guidelines. Studies show that the car seats reduce the risk of child injury up to 82 percent and the risk of death by 28 percent, compared to wearing seat belts.

"Car seats have more structure -- particularly side structure -- to them than most booster seats," Durbin said. Parents are also advised to keep older children in a booster seat, which properly positions the seat belt, until

they're 4 feet 9 inches tall and are between the ages of 8 and 12. The average child reaches that stature sometime after age 10, Hoffman said.

Booster position the seat belt so that the shoulder belt lies across the middle of the chest and shoulder and keeps it off the neck or face, while the lap belt fits low and snug on the hips and upper thighs, not across the soft tissue of the belly.

Children should ride in the backseat until they are 13 years old, since studies have shown this reduces the risk of injury by 40 to 70 percent, the AAP added.

The pediatricians' group also recommended that child safety seats not be used outside the car -- as they often are -- since they can tip and fall off tables, countertops and other surfaces.

The typical forward-facing car seat fits children up to about 40 pounds, though there are more than 40 models that can accommodate kids up to 60, 65 or even 85 pounds, Hoffman said.

Purchasing property in Aruba: Retirement home or investment - why not both?



View of Jardines del Mar community

uation has changed, and we realize we need to be flexible.”

Their prime corner units have larger kitchens and terraces than the other Jardines Del Mar properties, along with more windows, spacious rooms with large closets and a huge walk-in closet in the master bedroom, for a total of 2,000 square feet. The kitchen has brand new stainless steel appliances and a microwave, which is included in the sale price, and there is an additional outdoor kitchen and terrace, where they installed a barbecue in their home and entertain frequently. The management boasts a full time concierge, wi-fi, excellent security, and the complimentary fitness room will be completed by the end of 2011. For those considering owning property on Aruba, Terry may have exactly what you seek, at quite a bargain price. For more information call Terry at 743-1265; she can answer many of your questions regarding being a homeowner on Aruba based on her own experience.

The Orgels will continue to live at Jardines Del Mar even after the sale of their property. They love the section of Eagle Beach which is only a block away, and Terry regularly participates in water aerobics at Windie's Water Sport Center, which is right next to their community. “Buying our own home in Aruba was the wisest thing we ever did; we couldn't be happier. We encourage anyone considering this move to take the plunge, it was well worth it!”

As the Caribbean's #1 return destination, we are all aware of how visitors are quickly won over by Aruba's many assets; the perfect weather and charming people always invoke thoughts of making it a winter or retirement home. Terry Orgel and her husband Richard made just such a choice when they toured the cozy Jardines Del Mar community adjacent to Eagle Beach a few years ago, purchasing not only a townhouse for their personal use, but an identical 3 bedroom/3 bath home as an investment.

“We were particularly impressed with the quality of construction and design; we love the high cathedral ceilings, along with the layout of the community,” explains Terry, “the way the grounds and homes are maintained have convinced us we made the right choice.”

Terry and Richard, natives of Memphis, also appreciate the feeling of small town community to which they were accustomed, and love the way they have come to know all their neighbors. They spend their winters on Aruba from December to April, and six weeks in the summer, escaping the worst cold and heat back home.

The unoccupied townhouse is in pristine condition; they are now putting it up for sale at the pre-construction price they paid for it, \$395,000. This is 20% less than the developers are asking for a new unit. “When we purchased, we considered renting it out, but then decided we just wanted to simplify our lives and not be landlords. We also believed real estate prices could only go up, but the world sit-



Spacious, well appointed kitchen

Seth and Christy tied the knot on the beautiful of Aruba



Seth and Christy met in high school over 11 years ago. Although their paths crossed several times, both being shy, it was not apparent that they were meant for one another until 8 years later. Seth's

cousin was hanging out with him near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; she invited Christy to come by not realizing what was soon to happen. Seth gathered the courage to strike up a conversation with Christy; and they never stopped talking ever since. He met her best friend (Natalie) within a week's time; and secretly Christy told Natalie “he's the one”. She could not have agreed more. The only problem was, Seth was a teacher near Washington DC and Christy lived near Pittsburgh, over 250 miles apart. They continued dating for 7 months. After they both made several trips to see each other, Seth asked Christy to move to northern Virginia, where they lived happily together for a year and a half.

On a trip to visit Natalie, in Vancouver, B.C. Seth decided it was perfect timing to pop the

question. When they stopped to take a break at the trail called “Fountain of Love” Seth got down on one knee, shaking like a leaf on a tree, and asked Christy to marry him. Christy accepted and a few months later the couple decided to tie the knot in beautiful Aruba.

After much research to find a location for her big day in Aruba, Christy finally found Lissy Lampe of Ceremonies and Celebrations in Aruba, who organized the wedding, and Anne Maduro of Passions on the Beach at Amsterdam Manor organized the dinner. At first, trusting unseen people was frightening, but soon they found that their professionalism eased their minds.

When they arrived in Aruba, Lissy and Anne met with the couple and sifted through all of the details. First, they went to the Civil House where Lissy met them to officiate their marriage. The registrar, Mr. Betto Christiaans performed a beautiful ceremony. He explained the importance of marriage, faithfulness, patience, and always

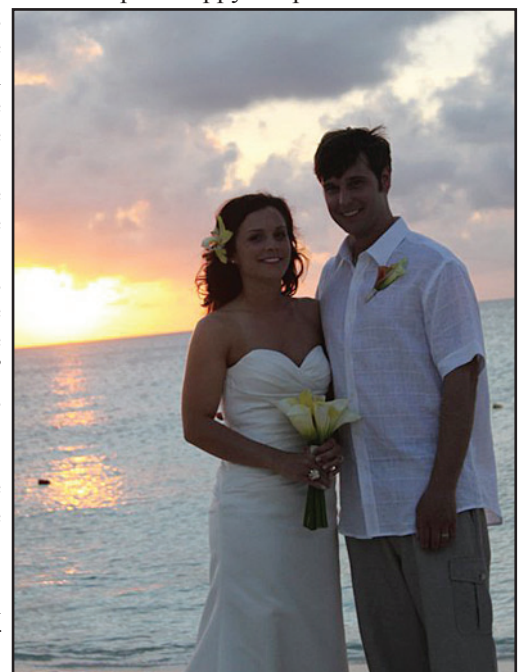
making each other happy.

Later that day, they had their marriage blessed on Eagle Beach by the famous “Fofoti Trees,” just in walking distance from La Cabana where Seth and Christy were staying. The ceremony was beautiful! Complete with a steel pan musician, an arch, gorgeous flowers, white sand, and the ocean as a backdrop.

The timing was perfect with the sunset. From there, the couple walked down the shoreline to Passions on the Beach where Anne took over. The seating was arranged in the sand around the bride and grooms' table a few steps from the water. The cake was displayed beside them with a nice fruit arrangement. After a champagne toast from the maid of honor and best man,

Seth and Christy had their first dance as man and wife to a song performed by the steel pan musician. Shortly after, the cake was cut and family and friends ate a delicious dinner, had drinks and relaxed. The whole production couldn't have gone better!

“To all involved, we thank you so much!!!” said the happy couple.



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Aruba Art Circle with great concert of the Duo Habana de Camara in Aruba



Friday, March 25, Aruba Art Circle will present another interesting concert in the Cas di Cultura of the "Duo Habana De Camara" consisting of pianist Ana Gabriela Fernández de Velazco and violinist Fernando Muñoz del Collado.

The concert will start at 8 o'clock in the evening and is organized by the Aruba Art Circle in cooperation with the Department of Culture of Aruba.

Fernando Muñoz del Collado started his musical studies under the tutelage of his father, the violinist Alfredo Muñoz, until his secondary level studies. Then he continued his studies at the "Instituto Superior de Arte" graduating with the "Título de Oro" in 2007. He has since won many trophies in

national and international contests among them the "Trofeo de Oro de la Interpretación" at the "Festival Primavera" in Pyongyang in 2009.

He made his debut as a concert violinist at the age of nine interpreting the Double concert for Violins of Johan Sebastian Bach with the "Orquesta Sinfónica Infantil in Cuba. Thereafter he gave numerous concerts and in May of 2010 he performed in Venezuela the "Concierto en Fa# menor" of José White, the famous Cuban violinist and composer.

Ana Gabriela Fernández de Velazco started her studies when she was 7 years old and graduated at the academy with the "Título de Oro." She also studied with two organists Kay Johancen and Frances Viril, professor at the academy in Paris. During her career she performed in the "Teatro Luisa de Cienfuegos" and in all the concert halls of Havana. Since 2009 Fernando and Gabriela have integrated in the Duo Habana de Camara. This duo has a vast musical repertory of national and international chamber music and has performed in numerous concerts. Recently the Duo has recorded a CD with compositions of the XIXth century Cuban composer José White.

This duo has prepared a very beautiful and interesting program for the concert here in Aruba with works of Mozart and Grieg for the first part of the program followed by a second part consisting of works of Cuban composers such as Andrés Allen, Guido Gavilán, José María Vitier and José White.

Tickets will be available at Cas di Cultura before the concert.

All lovers of good music are cordially invited to assist at this great and interesting event and enjoy an unforgettable evening.

Radisson Makes a Donation to Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda

The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa made a donation to Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda, which translates into RESPECT LIFE...always remember.

The foundation's main goal is to safeguard the rights of every member of society in Aruba; promote tolerance, solidarity, freedom and equality of every co-citizen; fight specifically against practices of: racism, anti-semitism and xenophobia, which can rear their ugly heads at any time.

Pictured here the secretary of the foundation Martha Goldenberg-Lichtenstein and Marlon Pieters who is assisting with fundraising efforts for the first Project, accepting the donation from the resort's General Manager Rob Smith and Human Resources Man-



ager Angelique Croes.

The foundation's first Project is placing a charming Anne Frank statue at a local park located in front of Ju-

liana School and Reina Beatrix School in Oranjestad. The foundation chose Anne Frank as a commemorative symbol to remind society at large of

the dangers of discrimination and to urge school children to learn how to co-exist peacefully.

Anne Frank stands as a symbol of atrocities committed against the innocent, as her youth and finally her life was taken away from her during the Second World War at the hand of the Nazi regime, in Germany. Her personal diary titled Het Achterhuis, was translated into more than 70 languages, and recently also into Papiamentu, affords us insight into her life as a prisoner of the evil regime.

Fundacion RESPETA BIDA...semper corda is convinced that Anne Frank as a symbol will inspire every human being, young and old, to always be alert against any kind of discriminatory manifestation.

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ACROSS

1. English farewell (2 wds.)
5. Egyptian cobra
8. R.E. Lee's gp.
11. Cosmetics company
12. Biden's home state (abbr.)
13. "... good night" (2 wds.)
15. Singer Horne
16. Native of (suffix)
17. ___ wrestler

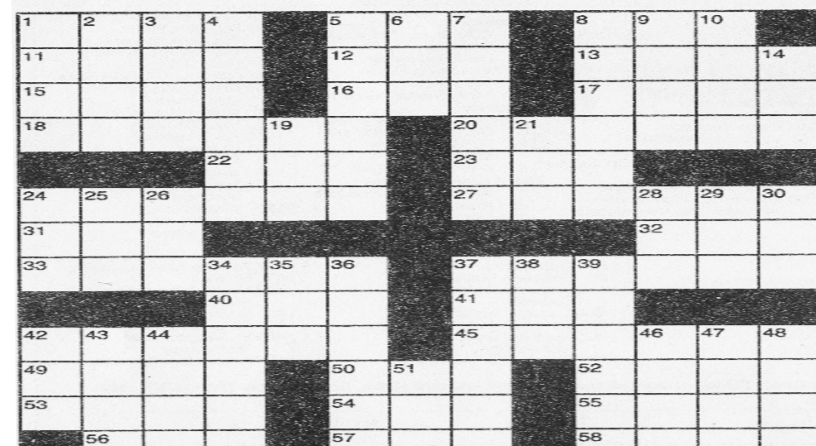
18. Nativity scene
20. Zoo inhabitant
22. Promissory note
23. Moral wrong
24. Dessert frostings
27. Weds in haste
31. Scurried
32. French summer
33. Authorize
37. Use force
40. Peanut product
41. Nighttime bird
42. "Green Acres" pig
45. Subleases
49. Popular music
50. Ages and ages

52. "___ Almighty"
53. 2002, to Brutus
54. Regret greatly
55. Ancient fiddler
56. WNW's opp.
57. Train depot (abbr.)
58. Reduce speed

DOWN

1. Dusting powder
2. Declare with confidence
3. Musical quality
4. Pain reliever brand
5. Parisian farewells
6. Complete

7. Word of courtesy
8. Atlantic City feature
9. Tenement locale
10. ___ mater
14. IM provider
19. ___ heaven
21. Naught
24. Vexation
25. Soup container
26. "___ pig's eye!" (2 wds.)
28. Word in RPM
29. List ender
30. Notice
34. Certain bet collector
35. Like Capp's Abner
36. Seniors
37. Eye part
38. Have a Discover balance
39. DeGeneres and Burstin
42. Shot spot
43. Caesar's city
44. Military detective show
46. Rob Knievel's dad
47. Edible, tropical tuber
48. Winter wonderland need
51. Depleted



Courtesy of



March 19 - March 26

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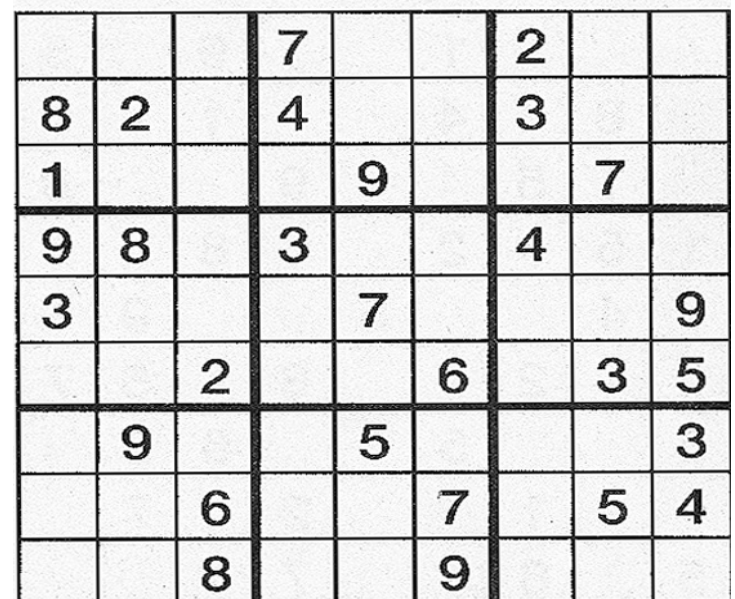
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	1	4	6	7	9	8	5	3
4	5	6	2	8	9	1	7	3
8	9	2	5	1	7	6	4	3
9	8	1	9	8	6	2	4	7
4	9	7	1	2	5	9	8	6
9	2	9	8	6	2	5	7	1
1	6	5	9	9	7	2	8	3
8	7	2	5	1	4	6	9	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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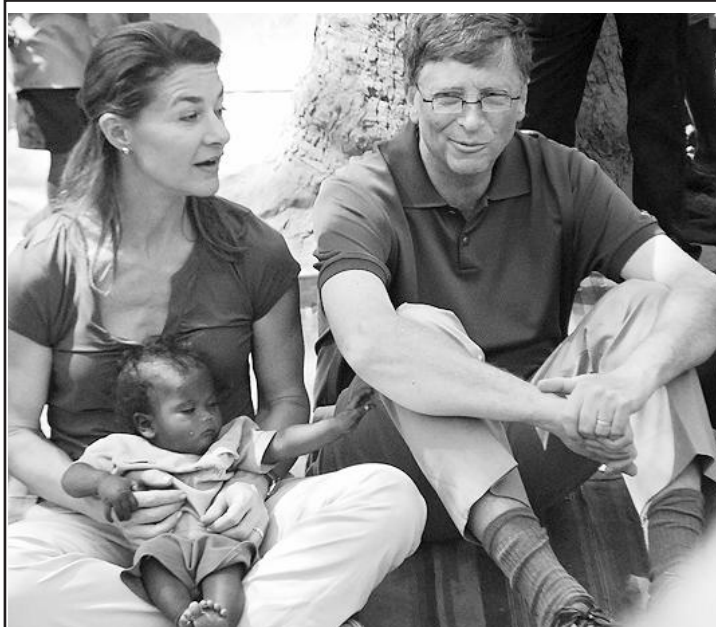
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Finance



PATNA, India : Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates (R) looks on as his wife Melinda holds a toddler during their visit to a village at Patna district in India's Bihar's state. Billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates yesterday toured the impoverished Indian state of Bihar ahead of a meeting to encourage the country's wealthiest people to give more money to charity. **AFP PHOTO**



PHILIPPINES, GENERAL SANTOS : Workers clean tuna fish for export to Japan at the fish port in General Santos, in southern island of Mindanao. Asian diners are still tucking into sushi at restaurants around the region despite fears that elevated radiation levels in Japan could reach the food chain and contaminate raw ingredients. **AFP PHOTO**

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Japan rebuild may hit \$309bn, radiation fears grow

OSAKA, Japan (AFP) — Japan said the cost of rebuilding the country after its biggest recorded earthquake could be as much as 25 trillion yen (\$309 billion) as a deepening radiation scare hit shares.

In the biggest estimate so far, Japan put the cost of the earthquake-tsunami disaster at more than twice that inflicted by the 1995 Kobe quake. The World Bank has said Japan needs up to five years to rebuild.

Analysts warn however that the figure may rise the longer an atomic crisis at the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant remains unresolved, with an ongoing radiation scare threatening the capital Tokyo, 250 kilometres (155 miles) away.

"The damage is far bigger than the Kobe quake," Japan's economy minister Kaoru Yosano told a press conference, adding "it will take a long time to complete reconstruction."

Japanese shares, which had been slightly lower on profit-taking after two days of strong gains, fell sharply in late trade after the Tokyo Metropolitan government said levels of radioactive iodine exceeded safe limits for infants for two consecutive days.

The Nikkei 225 index ended down 1.65 percent, or 158.85 points to 9,449.47. The Topix index slipped 7.03 points, or 0.81 percent, to 861.10.

Markets are vulnerable to signs of setback in delicate operations to restore power to overheating reactors at the leaking Fukushima atomic plant crippled by the March 11 disaster.

The twin disasters have plunged Japan into what Prime Minister Naoto Kan has called its worst crisis since World War II.

The top end of the government's estimate puts its cost at more than double that of the 9.6 trillion yen impact of the Kobe earthquake, and four times that of Hurricane Katrina's \$81 billion cost in the United States.

The total cost from collapse or damage to houses, factories and infrastructure such as roads and bridges was estimated at 16 trillion-25 trillion yen over the next three fiscal years, the Cabinet Office said.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, the US government's Department of Energy announced that crude oil inventories rose by 2.1 million barrels last week, above forecasts for a gain of 1.7 million barrels, according to Dow Jones Newswires said.

At the same time, American gasoline (petrol) stockpiles dived by 5.3 million barrels, more than double market expectations for a decline of two million.

Oil prices still rising on Libya, Middle East unrest

LONDON, England (AFP) — World oil prices advanced Wednesday on escalating unrest in Libya and the Middle East, and as traders digested the latest inventory data from the United States, the world's biggest oil consumer.

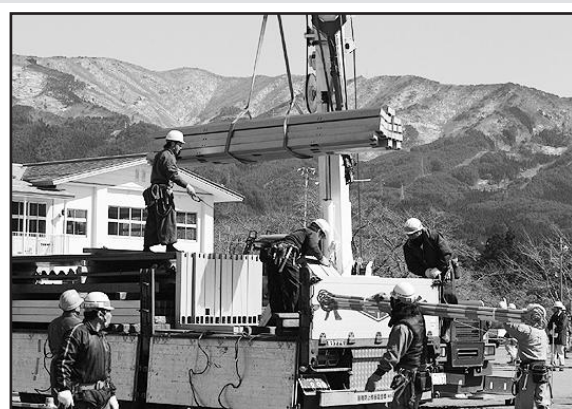
Brent North Sea crude for delivery in May climbed 35 cents to \$116.05 a barrel in London trade.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for May, gained 75 cents to \$105.72.

Oil-rich Libya was producing 1.69 million barrels a day before the unrest, according to the International Energy Agency. It is now producing 400,000 bpd.

"The issues of Libya and Yemen have been driving prices of crude oil up, although Yemen is a small exporter and Libya has been more significant," noted John Vautrain of Purvin and Gertz energy consultancy.

"The situation is probably going to last for a while," Vautrain told AFP.



JAPAN, Rikuzentakata : Workers operate a heavy machine as they build temporary housing for earthquake and tsunami survivors in the city of Rikuzentakata in Iwate prefecture.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

OFF	WAN	NFL
KRIS	ERAS	ERE
SIGN	ARTE	CEO
	UPS	AWOKE
BARBIE	LEW	
RUE	ALP	DECAL
IRAS	SHH	NASA
CALLA	DAB	SID
	APT	COSTAS
LIBRA	KAN	
DIM	IMPS	AJAR
EMS	LETA	GOTO
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Linda's Pancakes and Pizza place, delicious meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner



Olgita, Ilhan and Iyanla enjoying a scrumptious meal



The famous Saté

Linda's Pancake and Pizza place, located at Palm Beach 6D, Noord (on the right side of Valero gas station) offers patrons the most delicious Dutch pancakes and pizza's with a Dutch twist. Open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and only five minutes away from the high-rise resorts, Linda's is the perfect eatery for the whole family.

Seeing the popularity of this quaint small eatery, THE MORNING NEWS decided it was time to find out just how good Linda's really is, by sending out a team of taste testers.

Olgita, joined by her two kids ordered a little of everything while the kids roamed around freely, enjoying the afternoon.

The meal started out with Linda's original plain – to die for – Dutch pancakes, followed by pizza, where instead of using mozzarella Linda has created a unique twist to the traditional Italian dish by using Dutch Gouda cheese.

Adding a local favorite which could not stay off the table they also sampled the delicious saté (chicken, pork or beef on a wooden skewer) with peanut sauce (Indonesian influence on local food). For the finish the team (adults only) had one cup of Linda's delicious Espresso.

The team had this to say: "Superb! There are no words to describe just how delicious the pancakes are and the pizza is just mmm... good. The saté... out of this world!"

Besides the original plain pancake, Linda's specialty is pancakes with walnuts, Brie and honey; pancakes with banana and mango or a Dutch favorite: pancake with apple and bacon.

All their pizzas are made with Dutch Gouda cheese and different toppings making it richer in taste.

When it comes to saté, one has to say that the secret is in the sauce. If you want a specially prepared pancake or pizza, Linda is right there -- just for you -- in her kitchen.

"For those who are allergic to gluten I have a special pancake mix, gluten free," Linda stated to THE MORNING NEWS team.

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza also offers fried eggs and homemade soups.

"We also serve American coffee," Linda concluded.

With a complete menu, filled with delicious pancakes, pizzas and more, Linda's pancake and Pizza place is the perfect casual restaurant for all in the family.

For more information contact Linda's at 586-3378.



Donkey Sanctuary Aruba

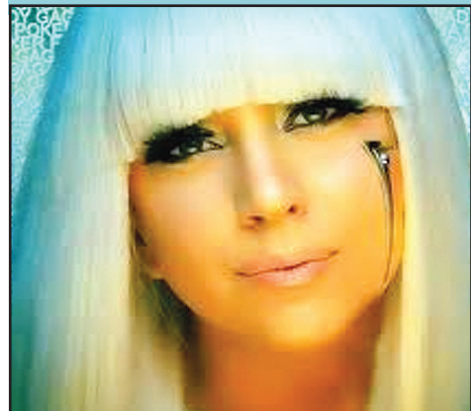
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Google goes 'Gaga' over pop diva's visit



channeling their inner little monsters and donning everything from her signature bow-tie hair buns to Mother Monster costumes."

Gaga, whose birth name is Stefani Germanotta, is known for daring fashion statements that include once dressing in an outfit made of meat. She refers to her fans as "little monsters".

Gaga, who will turn 25 next week, said during the Google interview that she will make her directing debut in her next video, which will be titled "Judas".

Gaga was the first artist to top a billion views at the Google-owned video sharing website YouTube.

More than 54,000 videos of questions from fans were uploaded to YouTube after she put out a message last week inviting them to tell Google what they wanted to know.

A video of Mayer's more than hour-long talk with Gaga was posted late Tuesday on the Google Talks channel on YouTube.

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – Pop diva Lady Gaga has thrilled Google employees during a visit to the Internet giant's headquarters in which she answered questions from tech-savvy fans.

She broke from her Monster Ball tour for an interview with Google's Marissa Mayer, who asked the singer questions submitted using Twitter or through a Google Moderator service at her YouTube channel.

"The superstar wowed a crowd in a venue that was packed to the rafters with adoring Googlers (Google employees)," the Mountain View, California-based company said in a release.

"Googlers went Gaga,

Elizabeth Taylor: Violet-eyed beauty movie queen

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) - Elizabeth Taylor, who has died at the age of 79, was the archetypal Hollywood movie queen, a violet-eyed beauty known equally for her stormy romances and eight marriages as her Oscar-winning performances.

Over a five-decade career she won two Academy Awards for best actress, including in the 1966 classic "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" one of many films where she played opposite her two-times husband Richard Burton.

In later years as her health failed she retired from the public gaze, although she notably attended the 2009 funeral of her long-time friend Michael Jackson, while she remained active in raising funds to battle AIDS/HIV.

Born in London February 27, 1932, she was evacuated to California with her American parents in 1939, where she was soon discovered at her father's art gallery by the fiancée of the chairman of Universal Studios.

She debuted in 1942 in "There's One Born Every Minute," and by 1944 had become a child star with "National Velvet," the story of a girl who rides her horse to victory at the Grand National disguised as a boy.

"Before men, my great love was for animals, which I still have," Taylor would later say.

Schooled on the set, it was not long before her attention turned to men.

She married for the first time in 1950, aged 18, to playboy hotel chain heir Nicky Hilton. The marriage lasted 203 days, collapsing amid verbal and physical abuse after a lavish Hollywood wedding and a three-month European honeymoon.

Taylor moved on, and by 1952 she had tied the knot with British matinee idol Michael Wilding, 19 years her senior. They had two children, Michael Jr. and Christopher.

Though Taylor said Wilding gave her stability, it wasn't enough. She filed for divorce in 1956, and within days of the separation producer Michael Todd, 49, proposed.

Tough and domineering, he was Taylor's first great love.

They had a daughter, Elizabeth Frances, in August 1957, but seven months later tragedy struck: Todd was killed in a plane crash in New Mexico.

Devastated, Taylor was accompanied at Todd's funeral by

wood history. Taylor was paid a record million dollars.

The movie flopped, but the Roman set was the backdrop for a sizzling love affair that made headlines around the world: Taylor and her leading man, Burton, who was married.

"Elizabeth looks at you with those eyes, and your blood churns," said Burton, a Shakespearean actor hailed as the next Laurence Olivier.

They married in March 1964 in Montreal. By the time they were filming "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," the harrowing portrayal of a marriage torn by booze, bitterness and failure mirrored their own.

They divorced in June, 1974 and remarried in October of the following year in Botswana, only to divorce again in August, 1976. Before he died, Burton commented: "We never

really split up -- and we never will."

The marriage left Taylor an alcoholic, and her career in decline. A seventh marriage to Virginia Senator John Warner, from 1976 to 1982, failed to cure the blues.

In and out of California's Betty Ford Clinic in the 1980s, she overcame her alcoholism and a dependence on painkillers and emerged as a champion in the cause of AIDS victims.

In 1991, she stunned the world by marrying husband No. 8: Larry Fortensky, a 40-year-old construction worker she met in rehab. They parted amicably three years later.

Taylor's health continued to deteriorate. In 1997, she underwent surgery to have a brain tumor removed and in 2006 she appeared on US television to deny rumors she had Alzheimer's disease.

In July 2008, she was hospitalized but her spokesman denied reports that she was close to death, while in 2009, she underwent heart surgery to repair a "leaky valve," tweeting afterwards: "It's like having a brand new ticker."

She was admitted to hospital in early February 2011 for "symptoms caused by congestive heart failure," an ongoing condition, said her publicist Sally Morrison.



his best friend, singer Eddie Fisher, whose wife actress Debbie Reynolds stayed home in California to take care of Taylor's children.

From grieving widow to homewrecker, Taylor made a lightning change of roles, stealing Fisher from Reynolds in an affair that scandalized puritanical America.

They married in 1959, but the public outrage nearly killed Taylor's flourishing acting career.

She had just finished filming the Tennessee Williams classic "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" (1958) with Paul Newman, and had already earned critical raves with "Giant" (1956), the Texas oil patch epic with Rock Hudson and James Dean.

But her flame only burned brighter. She made Tennessee Williams' "Suddenly Last Summer" in 1959 with Katharine Hepburn and Montgomery Clift.

The following year, she won her first Oscar for best actress for her portrayal of a high-class call girl in "Butterfield 8." Taylor is said to have hated the movie.

Then came "Cleopatra" (1962) -- "surely the most bizarre piece of entertainment ever perpetrated," Taylor said of the production, at the time the most expensive in Holly-

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Cricket: Pakistan crush hapless Windies to reach semi-finals



PAKISTAN, Islamabad : Pakistani cricket fans celebrate on a street in Islamabad on yesterday, after Pakistan won their quarter-final Cricket World Cup tournament match against the West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla stadium in Dhaka. Pakistan crushed the West Indies by 10 wickets to reach the World Cup semi-finals.

AFP PHOTO

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) - Pakistan's cricketers, dismissed as a disorganised rabble before the World Cup, stormed into the semi-finals on Wednesday with a 10-wicket demolition of hapless West Indies.

Charismatic captain Shahid Afridi took 4-30 as West Indies crumbled to an embarrassing 112 all out -- their third lowest World Cup total -- in the 44th over of their quarter-final in Dhaka.

Leg-spinner Afridi took his tournament wickets tally to 21 while off-spinners Mohammad Hafeez and Saeed Ajmal chipped in with two each as the West Indies collapsed after electing to bat at the Sher-e-Bangla stadium.

Veteran Shivnarine Chanderpaul was the only batsman to defy the spinners with a grim 44 not out off 106 balls.

Hafeez, with an unbeaten 61, and Kamran Akmal, with 47 not out, then saw Pakistan into their first semi-final since 1999, reaching their target with more than 29 overs to spare.

Afridi's men could next face arch-rivals India if the co-hosts beat Australia in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

"This is a great gift to give the nation on Pakistan Day,"

said Afridi.

"We tried to stick to our plans and the boys have done a great job doing that. These were great conditions for spin if you landed it on a length."

West Indies skipper Darren Sammy, whose team have now lost 19 successive times to a top side, admitted batting had let the side down.

"We definitely did not have enough runs on the board. We didn't counter their bowling well, and we fell well short. We lost wickets in clusters in spin throughout the tournament, and today was no different," said Sammy.

The West Indies were reduced to 71-8 before a 40-run stand between Kemar Roach and Chanderpaul helped the former champions surpass their lowest World Cup total of 93 against Kenya in Pune in 1996.

Besieged Australia captain Ricky Ponting will head into Thursday's match against India having denied that he plans to quit international cricket after the World Cup.

The 36-year-old, who has been under intense pressure since the Ashes defeat, as well as for his controversial behaviour at the tournament, said retirement had never crossed his

mind.

"There's been some stuff written about me retiring after the World Cup. That's completely false," said Ponting.

"I'm enjoying my cricket as much as ever. Whatever you've read, don't worry too much about that."

India are sweating on the fitness of big-hitting opener Virender Sehwag for the quarter-final after he missed the group stage win over the West Indies when he suffered an allergic reaction to a painkilling injection in his right knee.

"We are taking a call on Viru in the evening or maybe tomorrow morning before the start of the game," said India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni. "Apart from that, all the others are fit."

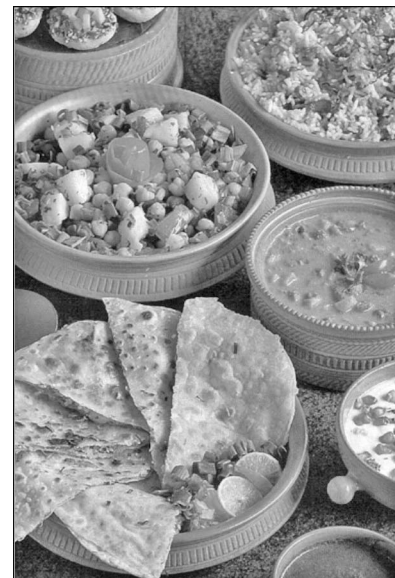
Sehwag has scored 7,707 runs including 14 hundreds in 233 one-day internationals at an average of 35.35.

But he has never made an ODI hundred in 27 matches against Australia and he averages a modest 22.65 against the world champions.

Sri Lanka also have an injury worry ahead of their quarter-final against England in Colombo on Saturday with star spinner Muttiah Muralitharan battling a hamstring injury.

The 38-year-old -- who has a world record 530 one-day wickets -- suffered the strain in the win over New Zealand and only had shortened nets on Wednesday.

But coach Trevor Bayliss said Muralitharan will play on Saturday. "We are very confident that he will play and I think he's pretty confident too because he is a guy who's played through niggles in the past," said Bayliss.



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Platini re-elected as UEFA president



French UEFA president Michel Platini smiles during a press conference this week in Paris as part of the 35 edition of the UEFA convention.

PARIS, France (AFP) - Frenchman Michel Platini was re-elected unopposed as president of European football's governing body UEFA.

The 55-year-old former European Player of the Year will serve a second mandate of four years, having first been elected in 2007 when he took over from the veteran Swedish administrator Lennart Johansson.

Since then his reforms have included the democratisation of the flagship Champions League tournament and new 'financial fair play' rules obliging European clubs to break even.

Platini's second term as head of the Geneva-based UEFA will notably include the 2012 European Championships to be jointly hosted by Poland and Ukraine.

UEFA have on numerous occasions expressed concerns about Ukraine's readiness to co-host the tournament and Platini admitted that UEFA may have erred in awarding the right to host the event to the financially imperilled country.

In contrast to 2007 when he scored a narrow 27 votes to 23 win over the incumbent Johansson, Platini's re-election was a straightforward affair as

he had no opposition.

"The weight of responsibility is protecting the game. For me, football is only a game," Platini has said.

"As long as we keep the game, with its passion, we will have won."

Recently tipped by Pele to succeed Sepp Blatter as head of world governing body FIFA, Platini's comfortable re-election in Paris will keep him in pole position.



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Tiger Woods cancels Japan visit



TOKYO, Japan (AFP) – Golf star Tiger Woods cancelled his visit to Japan next month, following the quake-tsunami tragedy, his sponsors Nike announced.

The stop-off was to be part of Nike's Asian "Make it Mat-

ter" tour, promoting golf among young fans, which will still visit China and South Korea, starting on April 12.

The 9.0-magnitude quake and monster tsunami have left nearly 21,000 dead or missing along Japan's eastern Pacific coast and crippled a nuclear power plant, 250 kilometres (155 miles) from Toyo.

Many foreign companies and embassies have relocated their employees to Osaka, 400 kilometres from the capital, as a precaution.

Kirkland seeks comeback from prisoner to champion

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AFP)

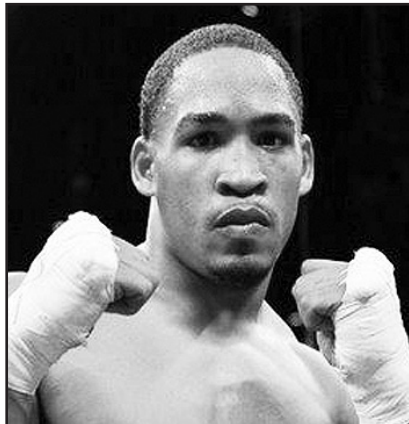
– After serving jail time for armed robbery and sitting behind bars another year for felony firearm possession, unbeaten US southpaw James Kirkland wants his comeback to end in a world title.

Kirkland, 27-0 with 24 knockouts, ended a two-year layoff earlier this month and will climb into the ring for his third fight in 35 days on April 9 against an undetermined middleweight opponent.

"I want to fight every day," Kirkland said. "The level I think I'm going to be on, I really feel that at the end of 2011 I'll be ranked No. 1 in the world or be about to fight for a world title or already have a world title."

"My time will come and I will be champion."

Kirkland, who turned 27



last Saturday, was convicted of armed robbery in 2003 and spent 2 1/2 years behind bars. He was on probation and convicted for felony firearm possession in 2009, spending another year in prison.

"I've set aside foolish things. Now it's time to grow," Kirkland said. "Nothing can take me off what I'm going to do. I'm not going to let anything take me from my dream, inspire me to do the wrong

thing again.

In his ring return March 5, Kirkland delivered a first-round knockout victory. Two weeks later, he added a second-round knockout.

Kirkland hopes to trim a few pounds and compete at super welterweight, which offers some high-paying potential rivals.

Former world champion Bernard Hopkins, who in May will try to become the oldest major champion in boxing history, spoke about his time behind bars with Kirkland and offered advice about dropping people who lured him astray.

"As far as cutting those people to the side, making old bad habits be old habits, things you won't be doing again, his advice was all positive," Kirkland said. "That was a poor decision I made."

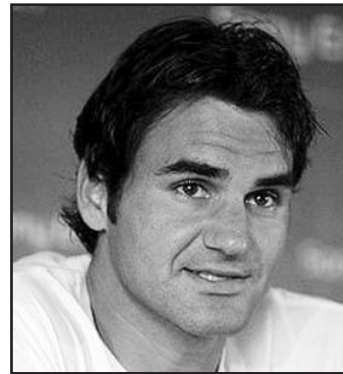
Federer unfazed by critics

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) – Roger Federer can only shrug off suggestions that he is on an irreversible downward spiral as he enters the start of the Miami ATP Masters with only one title and three defeats this season to Novak Djokovic.

The record-setting 16-time Grand Slam champion was at his ease yesterday after several practice sessions at the Crandon Park venue where he will be the third seed behind Rafael Nadal and Djokovic.

Serbia's Djokovic has seized the world No. 2 ranking and is riding an 18-0 hot streak this season.

Federer's only three defeats this year have come at the hands of Djokovic, at the Australian Open, Dubai and last week at Indian Wells.



"It depends on who says that," the Swiss said of pundits predicting his demise as a dominant power.

"I don't know if it's 5 percent saying it, 95 percent saying it. At the end of the day, it doesn't matter too much to me if someone is saying that or not. I still think I've had a great six months."

"I feel like I'm playing really good tennis, and right

now Novak is just a bit better than the rest. And that's OK," added Federer, who will face either Czech Radek Stepanek or Italy's Fabio Fognini when he makes his second-round start this weekend.

With his half-decade of total domination of the sport where he set record upon record, the 29-year-old Swiss is well-aware of what a roller-coaster staying at the top can be.

"I've gone through phases like this on multiple occasions with Rafa (Nadal), with (Andy) Murray, with even (Andre) Agassi and (Lleyton) Hewitt and (Andy) Roddick and so forth. It's just something that's part of the game."

"I never expected myself to dominate for 15 years, it always goes in phases. This is a good one," Federer said.



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Contador takes lead in cycling Tour of Catalonia



Spain's controversial three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador

MADRID, Spain (AFP) — Spain's controversial three-time Tour de France winner Alberto Contador grabbed the overall lead in the Tour of Catalonia on Wednesday after claiming the grueling third stage in an epic finish.

Contador, who just weeks ago was cleared by the Spanish cycling federation over his positive test in last year's Tour de France, completed the mountainous 189.4km race from La Vall d'en Bas in Spain to the Vallnord ski resort in Andorra in four hours, 45 minutes and eight seconds.

The Saxo Bank rider pulled away on the final hill climb just a few kilometres from the finish, chased by American Levi Leipheimer of Radioshack and Italy's

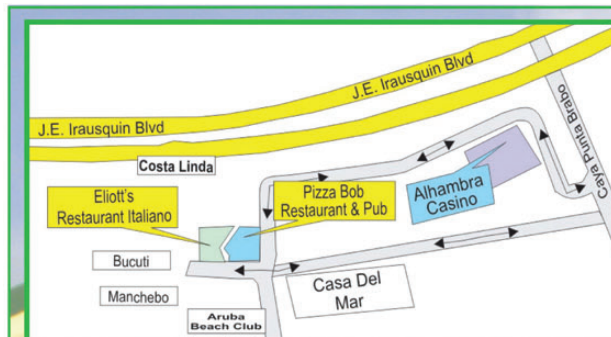
Michele Scarponi of the Lampre team.

But the Spaniard held on to win by 23 seconds over Scarponi in second followed by Leipheimer.

The win propelled him to the top of the overall standings, replacing Latvia's Gatis Smukulis of HTC-Highroad.

Contador is due to learn this week whether the International Cycling Union intends to appeal the Spanish decision clearing him of doping.

He tested positive for a miniscule amount of the banned muscle-building substance clenbuterol during last July's Tour but the Spanish federation accepted the rider's claim that he had eaten drug-contaminated meat and was not negligent.



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Star witness says Barry Bonds discussed steroid use

SAN FRANCISCO, California — A key witness in Barry Bonds' perjury trial testified yesterday that baseball's home run king admitted to using steroids and even complained about the pain from receiving injections.

Steve Hoskins, a childhood friend of the slugger and for-

mer business partner, said he first became aware that the former Major League Baseball player was using steroids when Bonds asked him to investigate their health effects.

"He complained that his butt was sore from the injections," Hoskins told the court.

Dressed in a grey suit,

Bonds, 46, who has pled not guilty, took notes as Hoskins testified about a relationship that dates back to a friendship between their fathers, who were professional athletes in San Francisco.

The Bonds case is one of the last strands in a lengthy investigation into the use of per-

formance-enhancing drugs in sports. Doping revelations have tarnished the reputation of baseball, known as America's national pastime.

Hoskins said he saw Bonds and his personal trainer Greg Anderson go into a bedroom and when Anderson emerged he was holding a syringe. In

another instance, Bonds said if Anderson would not inject him that he would do it himself, according to Hoskins.

Later, the court heard a digital recording that Hoskins secretly made of Anderson talking about injecting athletes with illegal steroids.

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